

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **12 DECEMBER 2011**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle
Vice-Chair: Councillor Clive Carver

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Diskin, Glenys Diskin and John Walker.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Crown & Liver, Ewloe

Councillor Mackie advised that the Crown & Liver had appealed against the County Council's decision in connection with its licence and that the Appeal Hearing would be held on 16 & 17 February 2012.

Police Matters

The Clerk advised that the dates for the forthcoming Antisocial Behaviour Panel meetings at Deeside Police Station were 2pm on 15 December 2011, 26 January 2012 and 1 March 2012.

In respect of ongoing communications with the Police Inspectors it was reported that Inspector Paul McKeown intended to email all Councillors on a fortnightly basis with a brief outline of events in the North Flintshire area. Further he advised that due to resource issues he would be unable to send Officers to attend the Council's meetings on a regular basis.

Winter Maintenance

The Clerk advised that he had informed Flintshire County Council of the Community Council's intention to co-ordinate groups of volunteers to assist with winter maintenance and that he had also applied for the kits referred to in the County Council's letter. He further advised that an article appealing for volunteers had appeared in the Flintshire Chronicle and that an advertisement had been placed in the December issue of the Living Magazine which was circulated to residential premises in the Council's area. Members were shown a copy of the advert.

With regard to the issue of the classification of gradings in the County Council's area in relation to gritting there had been no response to date from the County Highways Department.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PCSO Sian Atkinson to the meeting and invited her to address the Council on any relevant matters. She explained that she was now the PCSO for the Connah's Quay area and had been asked to attend the meeting at late notice due to the unavailability of Sergeant Heywood who had been called to an incident.

The Chair invited Members to raise any relevant matters with PCSO Atkinson. The following matters were raised:

- Thefts from a garden in Wood Lane
- Broken windows in Park Avenue, Hawarden

Members variously stated their concern that the Police were not properly represented at the Community Council's meeting and considered that it was important that there should be ongoing communication between the Police and the Members.

Councillor Halford disagreed that Police representative should be required to attend on a regular basis commenting that the Police's resources would be better utilised dealing with Policing duties rather than attending Council meetings where relatively minor issues were raised.

Councillor Mackie noted the proposal for the Inspector to communicate directly with Councillors via email on a fortnightly basis and considered that the Council should agree to that and evaluate its effectiveness.

Councillor Angell proposed that the Council should continue to welcome the attendance of Police representatives at meetings of the Council but also to receive emails directly from the Police Inspector and evaluate the effectiveness of that prior to making further representations on the issue.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept Councillor Angell's proposal and for the Clerk to furnish Inspector McKeown with email details for all Councillors.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:-

- Flintshire County Council were proposing to carry out Induction Training on the work of the Principal Authority for new Members following the May 2011 elections. Existing Members would also be welcome to attend if they so wished.
- North Wales Police would be undertaking an Estate Review commencing 1 February 2012. The Review would concentrate on the rationalisation of the Force's buildings. It was understood that there was a proposal to close four Police Stations although none of these were in Flintshire. However it was proposed to relocate from the Police's existing premises in Saltney and Buckley.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Chair of Committee referred to the tragic death of Gary Speed MBE, the Wales Senior Football Team Manager who came from Aston Park and questioned whether the Council would wish to recognise his achievements. He said that he was aware that Gary Speed had played for Hawarden Rangers as a youngster and proposed that the Council consider sponsoring a trophy for which players of the Club could compete annually.

Councillor David Hough put forward the possibility of having a memorial bench in the Plough Lane play area whilst Councillor Small proposed something more permanent to be displayed at Hawarden High School.

It was however agreed that it was too soon after Mr Speed's death to make any firm decisions and to defer further consideration of the matter until Spring 2012, noting the Council's 'in principle' agreement to recognise his life.